

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:947

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2008

ISSUANCE OF MULTI PURPOSE NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received reports from the State Governments for issuing Photo Identity Cards mandatory for citizens of neighbouring countries residing in these States;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme to prepare a 'National Register of Citizens' and issue multi-purpose National Identity Cards for the personal identification of the citizens of the country;
- (c) if so, the details of the said scheme alongwith the status thereof;
- (d) the total funds allocated to each State for the said purpose;
- (e) the details of those States in which this work has been started and completed as on date under Phase-I of the said scheme; and
- (f) the time by when this work is likely to be started in the remaining States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI MANIKRAO H. GAVIT)

(a) to (f): No, Sir; there have been no such reports. But the Government proposes to issue Multi-purpose National Identity (smart) Card (MNIC) to the citizens in the country. The project envisages providing unique National Identity Number (NIN) to each person in the National Population Register (NPR). However, keeping in view the complexities involved both in the processes and technology, a pilot project has been under implementation on an experimental basis covering a population of 30.95 lakhs in the selected areas in 12 States and 1 Union Territory; namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Pudducherry. Under the pilot project, identity (smart) cards are being issued to the citizens of age 18 years and above.

The production and distribution of identity cards has been undertaken through Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSUs). This was to be completed by July, 2007. But due to time taken in sourcing of raw materials and stabilization of rejects during personalization, this has taken time and will be completed by March, 2008. An amount of Rs. 44.36 crores has been sanctioned for the pilot project. It is proposed to decide on the implementation of the scheme in the entire country in the light of the experiences gained and lessons learnt from the pilot project.